APPENDIX P

Who Are We? A Profile

POPULATION

- There are 9,773,900 people living in Michigan, making it the eighth most populous state in the nation (1997).
- There are 3,576,000 households in the state, with an average of 2.6 people living in each (1996).
- Although the state’s population is growing, it is occurring at a rate slower than most other states; for 1996–97, Michigan’s growth rate ranked 34th among the states.
- About 85 percent of Michiganders are Caucasian, about 15 percent African-American, one percent American Indian, and one percent Asian (see Exhibit 1). With the exception of its Asian population, Michigan’s racial composition mirrors that of the rest of the nation (1996).
- Only 3 percent of the state’s population are Hispanic, compared to 11 percent nationwide (1996).
- The median age in Michigan is 34.2, compared to 34.6 for the United States (1996).

GLOSSARY

Hispanic origin
As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, an ethnicity rather than a race; refers to persons who can trace their origin to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other nations with a Spanish culture; Hispanic people may be of any race.

EXHIBIT 1. Racial Distribution in Michigan and the United States, 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Michigan</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Calculations by Public Sector Consultants, Inc., based on data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.
Twenty-nine percent of the Michigan population are aged 19 or younger, 21 percent are in their young working years, 29 percent are middle-aged, and 17 percent are 55 and older (1996; see Exhibit 2).

The Michigan population is aging. In 1990 the median age was 32.5; six years later it had increased nearly two years, to 34.2.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–19</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–34</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–54</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55–64</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS**

- In 1995 there were 71,042 marriages and 39,499 divorces in Michigan; couples ending their marriages were wed an average of seven years.
- Of the 2.4 million families in Michigan, 1.2 million—49 percent—have children aged under 18 (1990).
- The average number of children per Michigan family is 0.92; the national average is 0.89 (1990).
- Twenty-eight percent of the state's children live in families headed by a single parent; nationally, the rate is 26 percent (1994).

**ECONOMIC STATUS**

- Per capita income in Michigan is $24,945, ranking it 16th in the nation (1996).
- More than one-fifth—21 percent—of Michigan children live in poverty (in 1998, annual income under $13,650 for a family of three); of these, 10 percent live in extreme poverty (annual income under $6,825 for a family of three); nationally, the rates are about the same (1994).
- Of Michigan’s 4.9 million people in the labor force, about 4.7 million have jobs (1997).
Four percent of the civilian labor force—about 202,000— are unemployed (1997).

The service sector (includes agriculture and tourism) is the largest employer in the state, followed by manufacturing and retail trade (1997; see Exhibit 3).

About 11 percent of the Michigan work force hold a job related to vehicle manufacturing (1996).

Michigan households average 1.7 vehicles; 6.2 million passenger vehicles are registered in the state (FY 1996–97).

EXHIBIT 3. 1997 Wage and Salary Employment in Michigan, by Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employees (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>1,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance and real estate</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, communication, and utilities</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


HOUSING AND RESIDENCE

Approximately 72 percent of Michigan residents own their own homes, ranking the state among the nation’s top four in home ownership (1995).

Roughly 83 percent of Michigan’s population live in metropolitan areas (cities and surrounding suburbs); the national figure is 80 percent (1990).

Only 1.3 percent of the Michigan population live on a farm (1990).

Seventy-eight percent of the Michigan population report having been born in the state, ranking Michigan 9th in the nation in the number of native sons/daughters still residing here (1990).

EDUCATION

Eighty-three percent of Michigan residents aged 18 and older have a high school diploma, and 19 percent have a bachelor’s degree or more advanced education (1996).
APPENDIX P: WHO ARE WE? A PROFILE

- Twenty-four percent of Michigan males aged 25 and older have achieved at least a bachelor's degree; the figure is 19 percent for Michigan women (1996).
- Twenty-two percent of Michigan Caucasians aged 25 and older have achieved at least a bachelor's degree; the figures for African-Americans and people of Hispanic origin are 10 percent and 8 percent, respectively (1996).
- The high-school dropout rate in Michigan is 7.7 percent, up from 5.2 percent in 1995 (1996).

HEALTH HABITS AND STATUS

- Twenty-six percent of Michigan adults smoke cigarettes, the 14th highest percentage in the nation (1995).
- Thirty-one percent of Michigan adults are overweight, ranking it 5th in the nation (1995).
- The state’s teen pregnancy rate is 82 per 1,000 pregnancies (1995).
- Heart disease is killing more Michiganders than any other cause: One-third of all Michigan deaths are related to heart disease (1995).
- Michigan has 8 HIV/AIDS deaths per 100,000 people; the national rate is 15 per 100,000 people (1995).

POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- Thirty-nine percent of Michiganders consider themselves to be Democrats, 35 percent Republicans, and 20 percent independents; 19 percent profess to be “strong” Democrats, and 15 percent to be “strong” Republicans (1997).
- Forty-two percent say they are conservative, 27 percent moderate, and 29 percent liberal (1997).
- Fifty-two percent say they are Protestant, 29 percent Catholic, one percent Jewish, and 17 percent reported practicing another or no religion; 46 percent say they attend religious services regularly, 21 percent attend often, and 31 percent seldom or never (1997).

RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Eight hundred thousand watercraft are registered in Michigan, making the state the nation’s leader (1997).
- Forty-three percent of the Michigan population participate in some form of wildlife-related recreation (1996).
- One-fourth of Michigan residents engage in hunting or fishing (1996).
- Bicycling, walking for exercise, camping, and bowling are the four sports activities in which Michigan adults most often participate (1992).
- Forty percent of Michiganders volunteer annually (1997).
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


Michigan Information Center Web site
www.state.mi.us/dmb/mic/


U.S. Bureau of the Census Web site
www.census.gov